2016 Census of Canada

Structural Type of Dwelling and Collectives

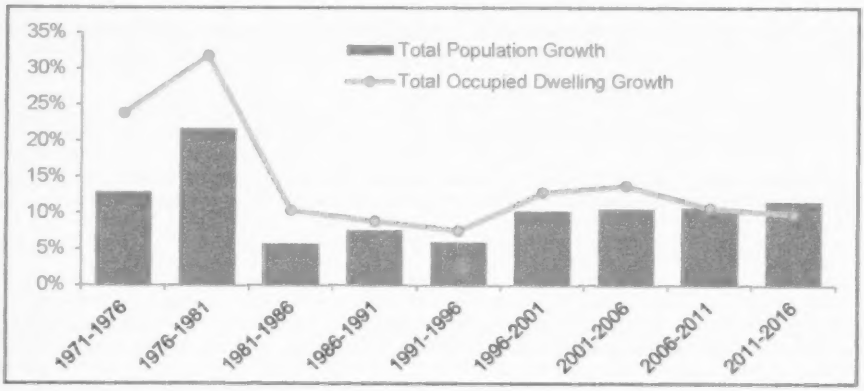
Total Occupied Dwellings

Alberta leads provinces in growth of occupied dwellings

In 2016, there were 1,530,870 dwellings occupied by usual residents in Alberta; a number that includes 1,527,680 private dwellings, as well as 3,190 collective dwellings. This represents a 9.9% increase in the number of dwellings from the 2011 Census, the fastest growth rate among the provinces and well above the national rate of 5.6% (Table 1). Alberta's strong growth in dwellings was accompanied by a nation-leading 11.6% increase in population over the five year period.

Chart 1: Occupied Dwelling and Population Growth

Alberta, 1976-2016



Although the number of dwellings increased from the last census, the rate of growth has been progressively slowing over time. The 2011-2016 growth rate of 9.9% was down from 10.7% over the 2006-11 period and 13.7% over the 2001-06 period. In fact, the 9.9% growth rate was the lowest among the past four censuses. Furthermore, it was the second census in a row that the total number of occupied dwellings grew slower than the overall population (Chart 1).

The proportion of Albertans who lived in private dwellings (97.8%) and collective dwellings (2.2%) was similar to most other provinces. For Canada as a whole, 98.0% lived in private dwellings while 2.0% lived in collective dwellings in 2016.

Table 1: Total Dwellings Occupied by Usual Residents, Canada and Provinces, 2011 and 2016

Province	2011			2016			% Growth in Total
	Private Dwellings	Collective Dwellings	Total	Private Dwellings	Collective Dwellings	Total	
Canada	13,320,614	28,835	13,349,449	14,072,075	28,835	14,100,910	5.6%
NL	208,842	450	209,292	218,675	435	219,110	4.7%
PE	56,462	250	56,712	59,470	190	59,660	5.2%
NS	390,279	1,050	391,329	401,990	905	402,895	3.0%
NB	314,007	970	314,977	319,770	945	320,715	1.8%
QC	3,395,343	7,365	3,402,708	3,531,660	6,685	3,538,345	4.0%
ON	4,887,508	8,530	4,896,038	5,169,175	8,255	5,177,430	5.7%
MB	466,138	1,315	467,453	489,050	1,570	490,620	5.0%
SK	409,645	1,160	410,805	432,620	1,280	433,900	5.6%
AB	1,390,275	3,240	1,393,515	1,527,680	3,190	1,530,870	9.9%
BC	1,764,637	4,300	1,768,937	1,881,970	4,110	1,886,080	6.6%

Notes: Excludes data for incompletely enumerated Indian Reserves or Settlements

Private Dwellings

Similar to most other Canadians, Albertans strongly prefer single-detached houses

In 2016, 61.9% of occupied private dwellings in Alberta were single-detached houses (Table 2)[1]. Over one in five households lived in an apartment of some type, with over two-thirds of these living in a low-rise apartment building. Row houses ranked a distant third with 7.6% of households.

Most Canadian households show similar residential preferences although some variation is evident, likely related to differences in affordability, availability and household size. For example, in British Columbia, a smaller proportion of households live in single-detached housing than anywhere else in Canada. Less than half of British Columbia households lived in single-detached houses, while 42.1% lived in apartments in 2016 (Table 2).

Among provinces, Newfoundland and Labrador along with Saskatchewan had the highest proportions of households living in single-detached homes, occupied by almost three-quarters of private households (Table 2). Quebec had the highest proportion of households living in apartments (45.5%) and a similar proportion in single-detached homes. More than two-thirds of Quebec's households had only one or two people, compared with 62.6% for Canada and 58.3% for Alberta. For Canada as a whole, 53.6% of households called a single-detached house home in 2016, while 33.5% lived in apartments.

Larger households more likely to live in single detached housing

In Alberta, 79.4% of households with four or more persons lived in single-detached houses, more than double the proportion of 38.1% for one-person households (Table 3). This is expected since larger households require larger living spaces. Row and semi-detached houses were also among the preferred types of dwelling for larger households, where the proportions of four or more persons households were 6.4% and 5.0%, respectively. Although single-detached houses were also the preferred type of dwelling for smaller households, 30.4% of one-person households and 13.9% of two-person households lived in apartment buildings with fewer than five stories compared with only 4.2% of larger households.

Definitions:

A dwelling is a set of living quarters, which can be either private or collective. Private dwellings are separate living quarters with a private entrance either directly from outside or from a common hall, lobby, vestibule or stairway inside the building. The entrance must be accessible without passing through the living quarters of someone else. Furthermore, a private dwelling must have a source of heat or power and must be an enclosed space that provides shelter from the elements. Collective dwellings are those used for commercial, institutional or communal purposes. Examples of collective dwellings include hotels, hospitals, and work camps.

A dwelling may be occupied or unoccupied. If a dwelling is occupied, it may be occupied by usual residents (i.e., who live there permanently), or by foreign and/or temporary residents. This highlight focuses solely on dwellings occupied by usual residents.

Source: Statistics Canada

1 Detailed definitions of structural dwelling types can be found in Appendix 1

Table 2: Percentage Distribution of Occupied Private Dwellings by Structural Type, 2016

	CAN	NL	PE	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Single-detached House	53.6	73.3	69.2	65.5	69.3	45.4	54.3	67.8	72.7	61.9	44.1
Total Apartment, All Types (=1+2+3)	33.5	17.2	17.0	22.9	19.3	45.5	30.7	23.2	17.8	21.5	42.1
Apt. ≥ 5 Stories (1)	9.9	0.3	0.1	5.3	1.2	5.3	17.2	8.0	2.4	4.1	9.4
Apartment, duplex (2)	5.6	11.5	1.7	3.1	4.2	7.5	3.4	1.4	2.2	2.8	12.2
Apt. < 5 Stories (3)	18.0	5.3	15.2	14.5	13.8	32.7	10.1	13.7	13.2	14.6	20.5
Semi-detached House	5.0	3.9	5.6	5.1	3.9	5.3	5.6	3.2	2.9	5.7	3.0
Row House	6.3	4.8	3.7	2.5	2.8	2.6	8.9	3.5	4.3	7.6	7.9
Other single-attached house	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2
Movable Dwelling	1.3	0.7	4.2	3.7	4.3	0.7	0.3	2.1	2.2	3.1	2.6

Collective Dwellings

In 2016, there were 3,190 collective dwellings in Alberta, a decline of 1.4% from 2011 (Table 4). More than half of Alberta's collective dwellings, or 1,665, were health care and related facilities, such as hospitals and special care facilities. The majority of these dwellings were residential care facilities for persons with disabilities and addictions followed by residences for senior citizens. Service collective dwellings were the second largest category of dwellings in Alberta, accounting for 30.1% of all collective dwellings. Motels and hotels represented more than half of the dwellings in this category.

Although the number of collective dwellings declined between 2011 and 2016, the population living in collective dwellings increased 15.5% to 88,820 (Table 4). More than half of the province's total population living in collective dwellings, or 51,165 people, lived in health care and related facilities. A total of 16,935 people lived in 175 Hutterite colonies, representing 19.1% of Alberta's total population living in collectives. Populations living in service collective dwellings increased by 84.2% in the last five years likely due to an addition of 35 dwellings in this category. In contrast, population in correctional and custodial facilities grew 41.0% despite a decline in the number of dwellings while populations living in shelters grew by 11.0% even though the number of shelters remained unchanged.

Table 3: Percentage Distribution of Dwelling Type by Household Size, Alberta, 2016

	Single-detached House	Apt. ≥ 5 Stories (1)	Apt., duplex (2)	Apt. < 5 Stories (3)	Movable Dwelling	Semi-detached House	Row House	Other Single-attached House
Total	61.9	4.1	2.8	14.6	3.1	5.7	7.6	0.1
1 person	38.1	9.5	3.8	30.4	3.9	5.4	8.8	0.1
2 persons	62.3	4.1	2.7	13.9	3.5	6.0	7.4	0.1
3 persons	68.7	1.7	2.7	9.2	2.8	6.4	8.5	0.1
4 persons	79.0	0.7	1.9	4.7	2.2	5.1	6.3	0.0
5 or more persons	80.1	0.3	2.4	3.4	2.3	4.9	6.6	0.0

Table 4: Collective Dwellings by Type and Population in Collective Dwelling by Type, Alberta, 2011 and 2016

	Total Collective Dwellings			Total Population in Collective Dwellings			Senior Population in Collective Dwellings		
	2011	2016	% Chg	2011	2016	% Chg	2011	2016	% Chg
Total - Type of collective dwelling	3,235	3,190	-1.4%	76,925	88,820	15.5%	39,620	46,045	16.2%
Health care and related facilities	1,525	1,665	9.2%	45,030	51,165	13.6%	37,440	42,700	14.0%
Correctional and penal institutions	30	25	-16.7%	2,695	3,800	41.0%	20	30	50.0%
Shelters	95	95	0.0%	3,810	4,235	11.2%	120	175	45.8%
Service collective dwellings	925	960	3.8%	4,745	8,740	84.2%	525	1,625	209.5%
Lodging and rooming houses	125	90	-28.0%	935	1,385	48.1%	105	645	514.3%
Hotels, motels and tourist homes	605	615	1.7%	2,410	3,000	24.5%	235	530	125.5%
Other service collective dwellings	195	245	25.6%	1,400	4,355	211.1%	180	460	155.6%
Religious establishments	70	55	-21.4%	530	430	-18.9%	215	130	-39.5%
Hutterite colonies	165	175	6.1%	15,600	16,935	8.6%	1,190	1,225	2.9%
Other	325	215	-33.8%	3,945	3,515	-10.9%	85	160	88.2%

More seniors stay in assisted living facilities

The demand for special care facilities continues to increase as Alberta's population ages. Between 2011 and 2016, Alberta's senior population (65 years and older) increased by 94,495 or 23.3%, higher than the overall population growth of 11.6%. During this period, the number of seniors living in collective dwellings increased 16.2% from 39,620 to 46,045 (Table 4). Although the population of seniors living in collective dwellings continued to increase, the rate of growth slowed down after increasing 41.1% during the previous five year period. In 2016, the vast majority of these seniors lived in health care and related facilities (92.7%), especially nursing homes and residences for senior citizens. While the number of health care and related facilities in Alberta increased by 140 between 2011 and 2016, the number of nursing homes and residences for senior citizens declined by 120 and 20, respectively.

The senior population living in collectives is mostly made up of women, reflecting the higher proportion of women in the province's senior population. The proportion of senior women is particularly higher in residences such as nursing homes and residences for senior citizens, where the population of senior women is twice that of senior men. In line with the total senior population growth in the past five year period, the population growth of senior men living in collectives outpaced that of women (24.2% compared to 12.7% for women).

The 2016 Census of Population, Canada's largest and most comprehensive survey, is meant to capture the entire population of Canadian residents. However, sometimes persons and dwellings are missed or double-counted, or mistakenly enumerated (i.e., visitors). In the previous census of 2011, approximately 128,600 people were added to Alberta's total population due to census net undercoverage. Net undercoverage estimates will be released in September 2018.

Upcoming 2016 Census of Population Releases

August 2, 2017
Families, Households and Marital Status; Language

September 13, 2017
Income

October 25, 2017
Immigration, Ethnocultural Diversity; Housing; Aboriginal Peoples

November 29, 2017
Education; Labour; Journey to Work, Language of Work, Mobility and Migration

Contact

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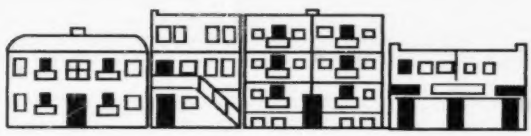
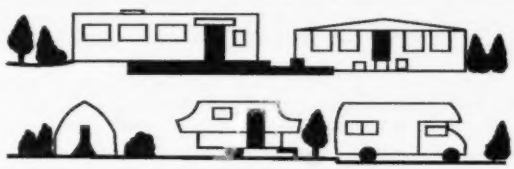
Appendix 1: Structural Type of Dwelling

Single-detached house – A single dwelling not attached to any other dwelling or structure (except its own garage or shed). A single-detached house has open space on all sides, and has no dwellings either above it or below it.	
Apartment in a building that has five or more storeys – A dwelling unit in a high-rise apartment building which has five or more storeys.	
Apartment or flat in a duplex – One of two dwellings, located one above the other, may or may not be attached to other dwellings or buildings.	
Apartment in a building that has fewer than five storeys – A dwelling unit attached to other dwelling units, or other non-residential space in a building that has fewer than five storeys.	
Movable dwelling – A single dwelling, designed and constructed to be transported on its own chassis and capable of being moved to a new location on short notice.	
Semi-detached house – One of two dwellings attached side by side (or back to front) to each other, but not to any other dwelling or structure (except its own garage or shed). A semi-detached dwelling has no dwellings either above it or below it, and the two units together have open space on all sides.	
Row house – One of three or more dwellings joined side by side (or occasionally side to back), such as a town house or garden home, but not having any other dwellings either above or below.	
Other single-attached house – A single dwelling that is attached to another building and that does not fall into any of the other categories, such as a single dwelling attached to a non-residential structure (e.g., a store or a church) or occasionally to another residential structure (e.g., an apartment building).	

Source: Statistics Canada